AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising at least one peptide antigen and a molecule selected from the group consisting of

(a) a human β_2-microglobulin molecule having a valine at position 55 (SEQ ID NO: 10); and

(b) a fusion protein comprising a first amino acid sequence and a second amino acid sequence, wherein the second amino acid sequence is a human β_2-microglobulin.

38. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 37(b) wherein the β_2-microglobulin is hβ_2m S55V (SEQ ID NO: 10).

39. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 37 wherein the peptide antigen is selected from the group consisting of bacterial, viral and tumor antigens.

40. (Withdrawn) A method of vaccinating a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal the composition according to claim 37.

41. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method of vaccinating a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal an antigen and a microglobulin protein selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a human β_2-microglobulin protein having a valine at position 55 (SEQ ID NO: 10); and

(b) a fusion protein comprising a first amino acid sequence and a second amino acid sequence, wherein the second amino acid sequence is a human β_2-microglobulin.

42. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A method of stimulating a tumor-reactive cytotoxic T-cell response, comprising:

(a) isolating T-cells from a patient having a tumor;

(b) isolating tumor cells from the patient;

(c) incubating the tumor cells with a fusion protein comprising a first amino acid sequence and a second amino acid sequence, wherein the second amino acid sequence is a human β_2-microglobulin (β_2m),wherein the β_2m induces presentation of the fusion protein on the surface of the tumor cells;

(d) incubating the T-cells in the presence of the fusion protein-presenting tumor cells to increase the number of tumor-reactive T-cells; and

(e) administering a therapeutically effective dose of the tumor-reactive T-cells to the patient.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the β_2m sequence is a wild-type β_2m sequence.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the β_2m sequence is a modified β_2m sequence that retains the ability to bind to an alpha chain of a class 1 MHC molecule.

45. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The method of claim 44, wherein the modified β_2m sequence is a human β_2-microglobulin (hβ_2m) S55V sequence (SEQ ID NO: 10).

46. (Currently Amended) A fusion protein comprising a first amino acid sequence and a second amino acid sequence, wherein the first amino acid sequence is a ~~cytokine,~~ cell adhesion molecule, or CD40, and wherein the second amino acid sequence is a human β_2m.

47. (Withdrawn) The fusion protein of claim 46, wherein the β_2m sequence is a wild-type β_2m sequence.

48. (Currently Amended) The fusion protein of claim 46, wherein the β_2m sequence is a modified β_2m that ~~retains the ability to bind to class 1~~ binds Class I MHC molecules with higher affinity than wild-type β2m.

49. (Currently Amended) The fusion protein of claim 48, wherein the modified β_2m sequence is a human β_2-microglobulin (hβ_2m) S55V sequence (SEQ ID NO: 10).

50. (Withdrawn) The fusion protein of claim 46, wherein the cytokine is interleukin-2 (IL-2), interleukin-12 (IL-12), granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), or tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha.

51. (Withdrawn) The fusion protein of claim 46, wherein the cell adhesion molecule is VCAM-1.

52. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 46, wherein the first amino acid sequence is joined to the second amino acid sequence.

53. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 52, wherein the first amino acid sequence is joined to an amino terminus of the second amino acid sequence.

54. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 52, wherein the first and second sequences are linked by a peptide linker.

55. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 46, wherein the fusion protein further comprises a signal peptide joined to an amino terminus of the first amino acid sequence.

56. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of claim 55, wherein the signal peptide is a β_2m signal peptide.

57-60. (Canceled)

61. (Withdrawn) A method of enhancing the immune response of a mammal to an antigen presented on the surface of a cell, the method comprising:

contacting the cell with the fusion protein of claim 46 such that the fusion protein is presented on the surface of the cell; and

administering the cell to a mammal.

62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 61, wherein the cell is a tumor cell.

63-64. (Canceled)

65. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 37(b), wherein the first amino acid sequence comprises B7.1, B7.2, a lymphocyte function-associated (LFA) protein, or an intercellular adhesion molecule (ICAM).

66. (New) The composition of claim 65, wherein the first amino acid sequence comprises B7.2.

67. (New) The composition of claim 37(b), wherein the first amino acid sequence is a cytokine, a cell adhesion molecule or CD40.

68. (New) The composition of claim 37(b), wherein the first amino acid sequence is joined to the second amino acid sequence.

69. (New) The composition of claim 68, wherein the first amino acid sequence is joined to an amino terminus of the second amino acid sequence.

70. (New) The composition of claim 68, wherein the first and second amino acid sequences are linked by a peptide linker.

71. (New) The composition of claim 37(b), wherein the fusion protein further comprises a signal peptide joined to an amino terminus of the first amino acid sequence.

72. (New) The composition of claim 71, wherein the signal peptide is a β_2m signal peptide.